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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yujin MORI
Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: 09/506,325
Filing Date: 02/18/2000
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2721

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Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign office action.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents were cited by the examiner in Applicant's corresponding Japanese application.

As to Reference A1, according to an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative the Japanese Office Action states the following:

the 1st line, 8th line, 11th line and 14th line of Table 1 cited on page 6 of Reference [A1]:

	Bound Edge	Setting Direction	Image Direction	Output Type	Rotation Angle 1 st Page/2 nd Page	
(1)	Long	LEF	Top	LEF	0°	0°
(2)	Long	SEF	Side	SEF	0°	180°
(3)	Short	LEF	Side	LEF	0°	100°
(4)	Short	SEF	Top	SEF	0°	0°

The Japanese Office Action states that "LEF" is "Long Edge Feed" of the document setting direction; "SEF" is "Short Edge Feed." Further, the Japanese Office Action states that "Table 1 of Reference [A1] is therefore considered to describe that the 2nd page of the original is rotated at 180 degrees and stored in the memory section in the cases of 'portrait of the horizontal original' and 'landscape of the vertical original' and that the 2nd page of the original is rotated at 0 degree (i.e. not rotated) and stored in the memory section in the cases of 'portrait of the vertical original' and 'landscape of the horizontal original.'"

The Japanese Office Action also states that "performing two-sided copy of a double-sided original is assumed in the image forming apparatus of Reference 1."

As for Reference A2, the Japanese Office Action states that "paragraph [0006] reads 'if an A4-size original (hereinafter referred to as A4R original) whose longer edge is set parallel with the original conveying direction and the original exposure sub-scanning direction is copied in the single-sided original - two-sided copy mode (hereinafter 1-2 mode), there is inconvenience that if the bottom side of the portrait original is not turned at 180 degrees the leading edge and end edge of the output result do not agree. The landscape original does not have such inconvenience.'" The Japanese Office Action further indicates that "the technical idea of determining the rotation direction of the image while discriminating the portrait or landscape of the original from the direction of placing the original, direction of setting transferring paper, discrimination standards, and the like, is described in paragraphs [0063] to [0069], FIG. 14, FIG. 16 and the like."

Yet further, the Japanese Office Action states that "Paragraphs [0014], [0028] and the like of Reference [A1] describe that the image forming apparatus of this reference comprises bound original edge designation means for allowing an operator to designate a long or short edge of the original as an edge to be bound. Paragraph [0061], FIG. 13(b) and the like of Reference [A2] describe that the image forming apparatus of this reference comprises means for allowing an operator to designate a stapling position."

As noted, the characterizations of the Japanese Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

STATEMENT

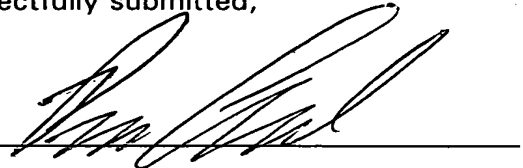
The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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